

Dear FCC,

In response to your request for public comments regarding the Performance Rights Act, I think it is a bad bill that should not even be brought to the floor for a vote. In relation to the petition filed by MusicFirst, what did they expect? Their lobbying on behalf of the record industry is a thinly veiled money grab made during a period when the broadcasting community is suffering from severe economic distress. Radio stations are laying off staff and cutting back on community events because of diminishing ad revenue and today's economy. Why would the record industry and they flunky, MusicFirst, show up with a can out now? In addition, if MusicFirst is so concerned about players not being fairly compensated, why aren't they going after the entities that negotiated these short-sighted contracts with these performers in the first place? Why do they expect broadcasters, and their listeners to pay the price for the recording industry pattern and practice of taking advantage of new artists willing to do anything to get their music heard? To think that the record labels and lobbyists would propose this legislation during this period is an insult to the broadcasters and their listeners.

I am personally offended by the possibility that I might wake up on morning and find my favorite station either gone or using a talk radio format because the record companies decided to make ME pay for their refusal to adapt to technological change and create a way to meet the demands necessary to keep themselves viable. Regardless of how MusicFirst, the foreign record companies and the artists claim that they feel about broadcasters refusing to air their ads or music, did they really think biting the hand that feeds them would have no repercussions? I say, kill the petition. Kill the MusicFirst ads. Kill the bill. And kill the record labels' attempts to pass on their costs of poor planning and an obsolete business model to radio broadcasters and their listeners. Free public radio is not broken. So, why try to fix it?.

The Performance Rights Act is a bad bill. And it's rightfully being treated like one.

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